

be within the spirit of the applicable law.

(c) *Requests based on an emergency hiring need.* An agency may request reemployment without penalty for an individual whose services are needed on a temporary basis to respond to an emergency involving a direct threat to life or property or other unusual circumstances. Requests submitted on this basis must meet the following criteria:

(1) *Nature of emergency.* Describe the military threat, natural disaster, or other unforeseen occurrence, the date it occurred, and the expected duration of the emergency response effort.

(2) *Need for the individual's services.* The agency must show either that the individual is uniquely qualified for the emergency response work to be done or that the number of positions to be filled and/or urgency of response justifies making the particular appointment without further delay. OPM will not approve reemployment without penalty under 5 U.S.C. 8344, or 8468 solely to meet normal seasonal workload fluctuations.

(d) *Requests based on severe recruiting difficulty.* Generally, requests for exception will be based on exceptional difficulty in recruiting a qualified candidate for a particular position. Requests submitted on this basis must include a description of the length, breadth, and results of the agency's recruiting efforts for the position and any other factors demonstrating that a legitimate recruiting need cannot be met without the requested waiver. These factors may include, but are not limited to, unusual qualification requirements or working conditions, possibility of job reengineering or contracting, or a need to fill the position without further delay.

(e) *Exceptions based on need to retain a particular individual.* In very rare cases, an exception may be appropriate when an agency needs to retain the services of a particular individual who is uniquely qualified for an ongoing project. Requests submitted on this basis must meet the following criteria:

(1) *Critical nature of project.* The agency must describe the importance of the project to the agency's mission, the potential costs of project failure or delay,

legislative or Presidential deadlines, if any, and any other factors demonstrating that the project is unusually critical. Exceptions will not be approved under this paragraph merely to avoid delay in scheduled completion of ongoing work.

(2) *Candidate's unique qualifications.* The agency must describe the knowledges, skills, and abilities possessed by the individual that are essential for successful completion of the project and that could not be acquired by another appointee within a reasonable time.

(3) *Need for retention.* The agency must show good cause to believe that the employee will retire (or, in the case of an individual currently reemployed without an exception, will resign from that position) and that the agency will lose his or her services if the exception is not granted.

(4) *Other staffing options.* While an agency in this situation is not required to conduct outside recruiting, the request for exception must address why the work could not be assigned to other employees involved with the same project.

(f) *Length of exceptions.* OPM may specify a time limit for reemployment without penalty of any individual approved under this subpart. If the agency wishes to continue the exception for an individual beyond the specified time, the request for renewal must demonstrate that the conditions justifying the initial exception still exist.

[56 FR 6206, Feb. 14, 1991, as amended at 57 FR 12406, Apr. 10, 1992; 65 FR 19644, Apr. 12, 2000]

**§ 553.202 Request for delegation of authority to approve reemployment without reduction in emergencies.**

(a) *Request by agency head.* The head of an agency may request OPM to delegate to the agency authority to approve individual exceptions on a case-by-case basis in specific circumstances. Authority to submit such a request may not be redelegated to an official below the agency's headquarters level (or, in the case of the Department of Defense, to an official below the headquarters level of the military department or Defense agency).

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(b) *Content of request.* The request for delegation must include:

(1) Description of the situations for which authority is requested. The situations must result from emergencies posing immediate and direct threat to life or property or emergencies resulting from other unusual circumstances.

(2) Identification of the occupations, grades, and locations of positions that might be filled under the delegated authority.

(3) Statement of the expected duration of the reemployment to be approved under the requested authority.

(c) *Delegation agreement.* OPM will set out the conditions for use of each authority that it delegates under the provisions of this section in a delegation agreement. The agreement will remain in effect without time limit unless OPM specifies a termination date in the agreement, or unless OPM withdraws the delegated authority upon finding that the circumstances justifying the delegation have changed substantially or that the agency has failed to manage the authority in accordance with the law, the regulations, and the agreement itself.

[56 FR 6206, Feb. 14, 1991, as amended at 57 FR 12406, Apr. 10, 1992]

## § 553.203 Status of individuals serving without reduction.

(a) *Reemployed civilian annuitants.* Annuity recipients reemployed with full salary and annuity under an exception granted in accordance with this part are not considered employees for purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States Code. They may not elect to have retirement contributions withheld from their pay; they may not use any employment for which an exception is granted as a basis for a supplemental or recomputed annuity; and they may not participate in the Thrift Savings Plan.

(b) *Retired members of the uniformed services.* Except for individuals to whom paragraph (a) of this section is applicable, retired members of uniformed services are considered employees for the purposes of subchapter III of chapter 83 or chapter 84 of title 5, United States

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Code, subject to the same conditions as apply to any other employees.

[56 FR 6206, Feb. 14, 1991, as amended at 57 FR 12406, Apr. 10, 1992; 65 FR 19644, Apr. 12, 2000]

## PART 572—TRAVEL AND TRANSPORTATION EXPENSES; NEW APPOINTEES AND INTERVIEWS

Sec.

572.101 Agency authority.

572.102 Agency discretion.

572.103 Recordkeeping.

AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 5706b and 5723.

SOURCE: 56 FR 6204, Feb. 14, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

### § 572.101 Agency authority.

(a) An agency may determine which positions qualify for the payment of a new appointee's travel expenses to the first post of duty. Payment of travel and transportation expenses will be in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulation (FTR) (41 CFR chapters 301–304).

(b) An agency may determine which interviewees are eligible for payment of pre-employment interview travel expenses. Payment of these travel expenses will be in accordance with the FTR.

[56 FR 28307, June 20, 1991]

### § 572.102 Agency discretion.

Payment of travel expenses for any individual candidate or appointee will be at the discretion of the employing agency. A decision by one agency that payment is appropriate for a particular position does not require a like determination by any other agency filling similar positions. A decision made in connection with one specific vacancy does not require a like decision in connection with future vacancies. In deciding to pay travel and transportation or interview expenses in filling any position, the agency should consider such factors as availability of funds as well as the desirability of conducting interviews for a particular job or offering a recruiting incentive to a particular candidate.